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## BULLETIN OF FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTIONS.

no. 5. (3) Oct. 27 to Nov. 9, 1908.

### NEW PLANT IMMIGRANTS.

**ANDROPOGON SORGHUM.** 24122-24137. A lot of African sorghums from Greytown, Natal. Presented by Mr. A. E. Leroy, Oct. 6.

**ANDROPOGON SORGHUM.** 24128-24130. From Egypt, Sept. 23.

"These are typical Egyptian durras with very large and heavy, ovate, extremely compact, pendant heads. They are mostly very late and will, therefore, not mature in much of our dry plain region; they are not at all adapted to the more humid regions because the compact heads become mouldy in wet weather." (Ball.)

"After the rains the natives go out to the borders of the desert and sow the grain in the poorish rocky soil. It requires no cultivation and receives no more water than that left in the soil by the rains. These sorghums are the principal food stuffs of the natives." (Smiley.)

**ARACHIS HYPOGAEA.** 24114. From Marseilles, France, Oct. 27. "These peanuts were secured for testing in this country for their oil yielding properties in comparison with the American varieties."

**CARICA PAPAYA.** 23915. From Singerton, Transvaal, South Africa, Oct. 26. "These seeds were procured at an altitude of 1200 feet, sub-tropical climate and rather dry. The flavor was excellent and tho I cannot say that it will prove superior to some grown in the states it is worth trying." (Davy.)

**CARICA PAPAYA.** 23917. From Rio Mucury, Brazil, Oct. 26. "Seed of a tree called the 'wild manua' as it greatly resembles a pawpaw in shape. The tree has a large, thick, quickly tapering trunk about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet in diameter at the base and a comparatively small head; grows

only in rich forest soil and usually on a slope. Natives believe fruit is a remedy for anemia. Fruit has strange effect of scratching tongue and sides of throat so much as to draw blood, but I found when my mouth had become hardened by eating 3 or 4 I could take them with impunity. The fruits are quite small, being only 4 in. long and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in diameter, of a bright orange color with a tender skin and luscious appearance. The foliage is very ornamental, like horse chestnut in miniature; it is quite striking and unlike every other forest tree here." (Birch.)

CROTALARIA SPP., C. HILDEBRANDTII, C. STRIATA. 24115-119.

DOLICHOS (?) 24120.

INDIGOFERA (?) 24121.

From Amani, German East Africa, Oct. 23. "Seeds of legumes being tested here for their value as green fertilizing plants". (Zimmerman.)

CRYPTOCARYA PEUMIS. 23897. From Coronel, Chile, Oct. 20. "A beautiful Chilean tree, produces a small pink fruit the size of a small olive; they eat the fruit after boiling it. Very ornamental when fruits are ripe. Requires wet soil. Can stand frost; grows best in valleys protected from the wind--in forests."

ERAGROSTIS SPP. 23920-921.

BAMBOS (?) 23922.

TRISTACHYA BISERIATA. 23923. T. REHMANNI. 23924.

POGONARTHRIA FALCATA. 23925.

PANICUM SERRATUM. 23926.

THEMEDA FORSKALII. 23927.

ANDROPOGON RUFUS, A. PLEIARTHRON, 23928, 23929.

From South Africa, Presented by Mr. C. W. S. Paine, July 20. "The above selection I made from veldt cattle favor, altho I cannot claim to state with any authority the specific value of the grasses. The soil is dioritic, a sandy loam, varying in color thru pinkish red, deep red and chocolate." (Paine.)

CARISSA CARANDUS. 23750. From Sibpur, Calcutta, India, Oct. 1. "A dense, spiny shrub or sometimes a small tree flowering from Feb. to Apr. (in India) and bearing a small fruit which is grape-green when young, changing to white and pink as it approaches maturity and black when fully ripe. The fruit ripens July-Aug. In India the fruit is made into pickle just before it is ripe, and is also employed in tarts and puddings. When ripe it makes a very good jelly equal to the red currant. The shrubs are also grown for hedges. This ought to be of value in Southern California where the red currant does not thrive."

PHASEOLUS VULGARIS. 23916. From Rio Mucury, Brazil, Oct. 26. "This is a vine which grows to a length of 40 or 50 feet, straggling over 3 or 4 trees of the size of orange trees. Bears a large number of pods of most delicious beans for 3 years in succession, and the beans will remain good on the vine for a long time after they are ripe. Wherever the summers are hot enough, as in Florida, and there is no frost, it would thrive, I think. The beans are so good that one friend said 'Everyone is mad after them'." Birch.

PINUS. 23913. Rec. thru F. N. Meyer from Tung Ling, China, summer of 1908. "This pine grows all over Northern China and seems to vary a great deal."

PODOCARPUS DACRYDIOIDES. 23742. From Wellington, New Zealand, Sept. 30. "One of the tallest trees of the colony said to occasionally attain a height of 150 feet. The wood is white or pale yellow, tough and compact, straight-grained and easily worked, but unfortunately not durable when in contact with the ground or where regularly exposed to damp. It is very suitable for inside work of all kinds."

RUBUS CHAMAEMORUS. 23894-95. From Harrington Harbor, Canadian Labrador, Oct. 17. "A fruit called locally the Bake Apple, it resembles a yellow raspberry in color and size, tastes of honey and banana mixed, grows in moist ground on a plant four inches high; the

flower is white. It is very hardy for our winters are long and severe."

VIOLA ODORATA. 23903-23912. From Erfurt, Germany, Oct. 24. Ten varieties of violets.

NOTES FROM FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS.

AFRICA, Clayashland, near Monrovia, Liberia. C. J. Payne, Sept. 8. Sends 36 specimens of tropical leaves and seeds used medicinally; offers to send these or any other medicinal plants of the region in large or small quantities to any one interested.

AUSTRALIA, Sydney. Anderson & Co., Sept. 23. Sends seeds of three kinds of salt bushes. Could obtain other varieties of salt bush, and also *Salicornia tenuis*, a fodder plant which grows in the open, flat salt pan country.

AUSTRALIA, Sydney. J. H. Maiden, Sept. 9. Sends information re distributing of *Aleurites triloba* in Queensland and promises to send herbarium specimens.

BOLIVIA, Santa Cruz de la Sierra. John S. Bowles, Sept. 2. Says he will send in about two months Tatum and Guapurú seeds.

China, Tientsin. E. T. Williams, Consul-General, Sept. 23. Is trying to secure seeds of *Prunus davidiana*.

COLOMBIA, Chaparral, Tolima. Andres Rocha, Oct. 6. Will send seed of Virgin rubber tree.

HOLLAND, Leiden. Dr. S. H. Koorders, Oct. 22. Sends names of men who can give information re collection of mangrove bark in Malay Archipelago: H. Ten Oever, Madisoen, Java: E. Tobi, Buitenzorg, Java.

INDIA, Portuguese, Loutulim, Goa. F. S. Cardoso, Sept. 25. Says there is a rice there that gives a crop in 60 days and offers to send some of it. Says best mangos of India are those of Goa.

JAPAN, Nagasaki. Wm. D. Hills, Oct. 6. Sends information re packing bamboos. Sends samples of hemp cloth and of one Korean cloth said to be made of bamboo fiber.

JAPAN, Yokohama. Rev. H. Loomis, Oct. 13. Offers to send scions of Japanese persimmons at any time.

PHILIPPINES, Manila. Wm. S. Lyon, Sept. 29. Sends seeds of *Garcinia* sp.

SPAIN, Madrid. R. M. Bartleman, Oct. 19. Sends samples of cane laths.

SYRIA, Beirut. G. Bie Ravndal, Oct. 10. Best pomegranates in Syria are grown at Sidon; best time for cutting bud-sticks is month of Feb. Most popular varieties of sweet pomegranates there are Matissah and Bint el Basha. The Mawardi variety is also rather sweet. The Mukl el Bagel is somewhat tart; so is the Zaffani, but not as acid as the Suneiny. Sends bud sticks of these 6 varieties and promises to send others later.

TRANSVAAL, Pretoria. J. Burt Davy, Oct. 12. Sends pamphlet "Native trees of Transvaal," and information re *Trichilia emetica* and other spp.

#### RECENT VISITORS.

CHILI. Nov. 2. Dr. Carlos Camacho of the Chilian Dept. of Agriculture. He is Director of the Station of Vegetable Pathology, and is visiting similar stations in the United States and Europe. Will be in town for 3 months, 1453 Mass. Ave.

PALESTINE. Mr. Howel Jones, General Land Agent of the Santa Fe, is going to Palestine. Now at Topeka, Kans.